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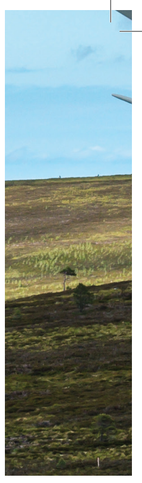
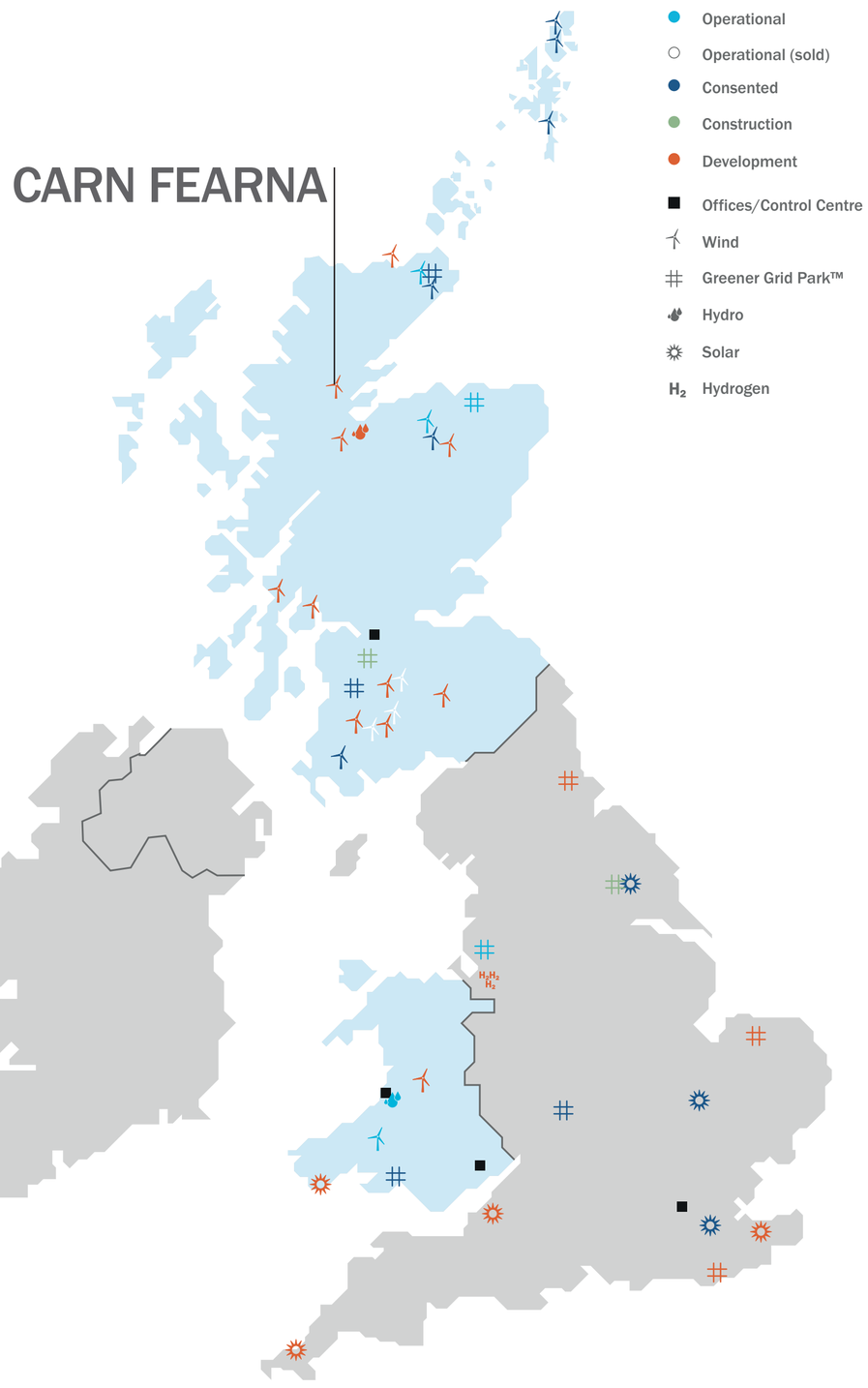


Welcome

We would like to update you on our plans for Carn Fearna Wind Farm.

About Statkraft

- → The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- → A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- → Operating in the UK since 2006
- → Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- → Development pipeline includes wind, solar, hydrogen and grid stability services
- → Six projects operating or in development in the Highlands
- → Distributed over £4 million to communities near operating wind farms



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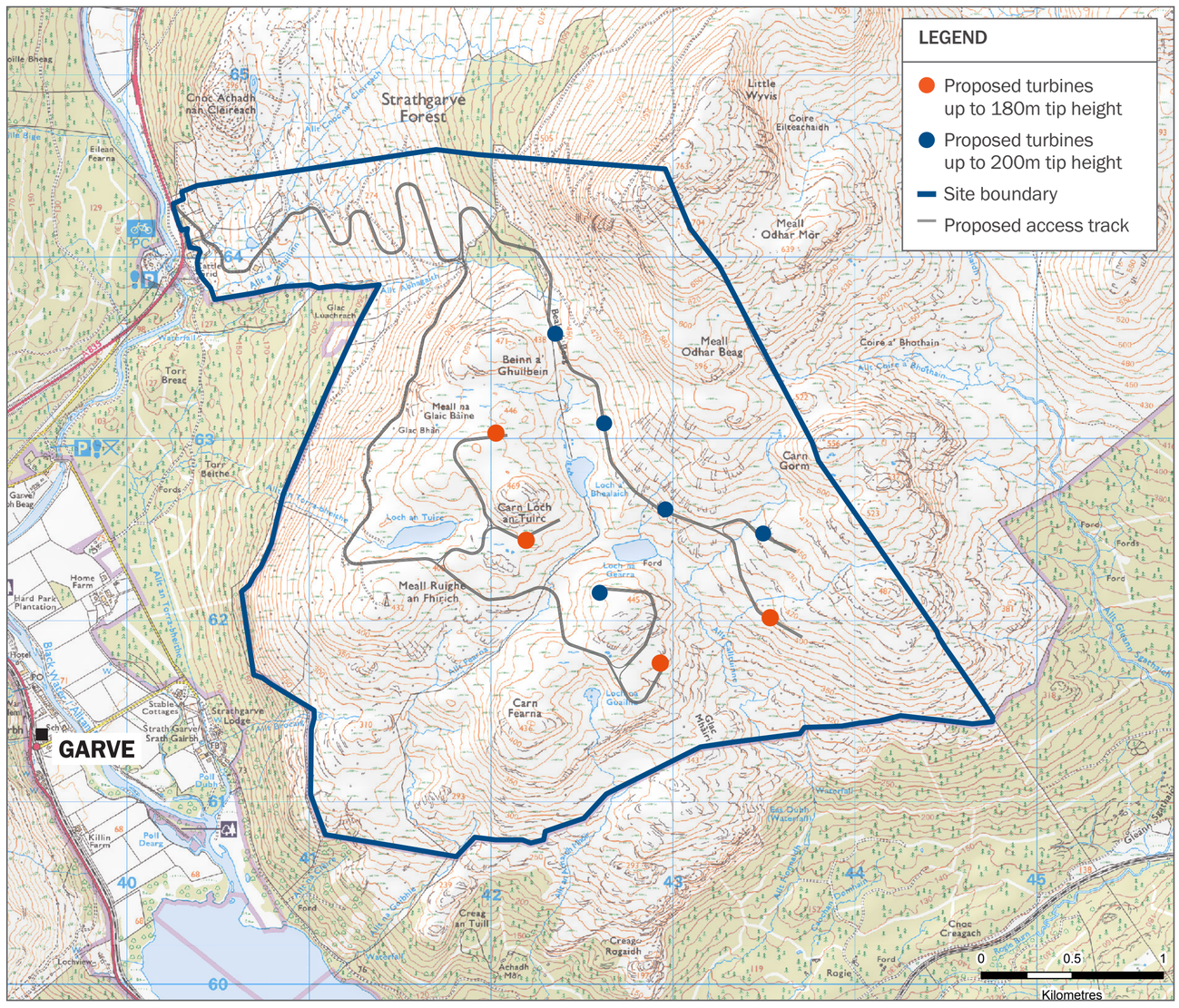
Highland RENEWABLES Inspiring a Sustainable Future

scottishrenewables

About Carn Fearna Wind Farm

Since we last presented our proposal, we have removed two turbines and reduced the height of four turbines.



Carn Fearna Wind Farm

No. of Turbines	9 Turbines
Max Blade Tip Heights	A mix of 180m and 200m to tip
Expected Installed Capacity(1) (MW)	60MW (Section 36 consent application)
Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	50,000 Homes per year (2)
Community Fund (per year)	£297,000 per year (3)

(1) Excluding potential Battery Energy Storage System elements
(2) Based on 9 x 6.6MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,295kWh pa (DESNZ Dec. 2022).
(3) Based on 59.4MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

We have refined our proposal based on feedback from local residents and consultees, including The Highland Council.

We have worked to limit the visual impact on Garve and from Ben Wyvis, while maximising the electrical output of the site.

We are avoiding areas of deep peat through careful siting of components.

www.carn-fearna.co.uk

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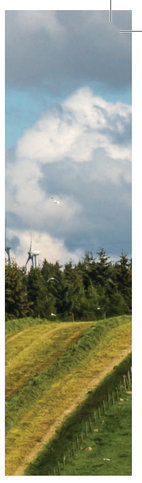
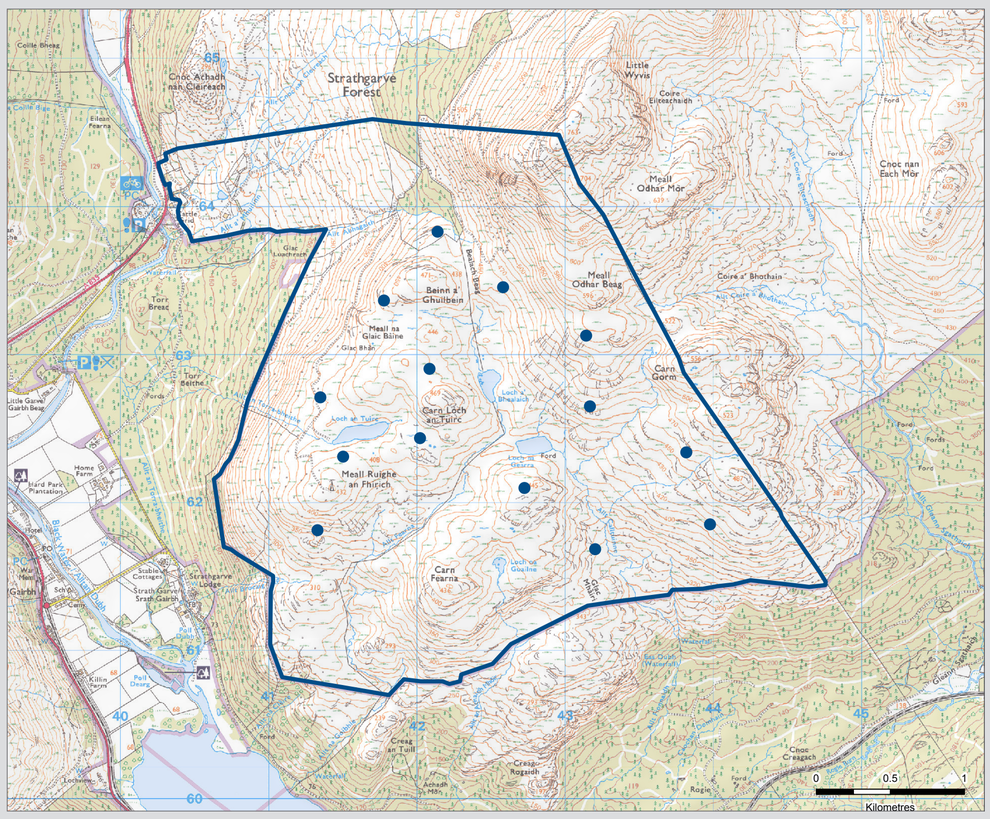


Design Evolution

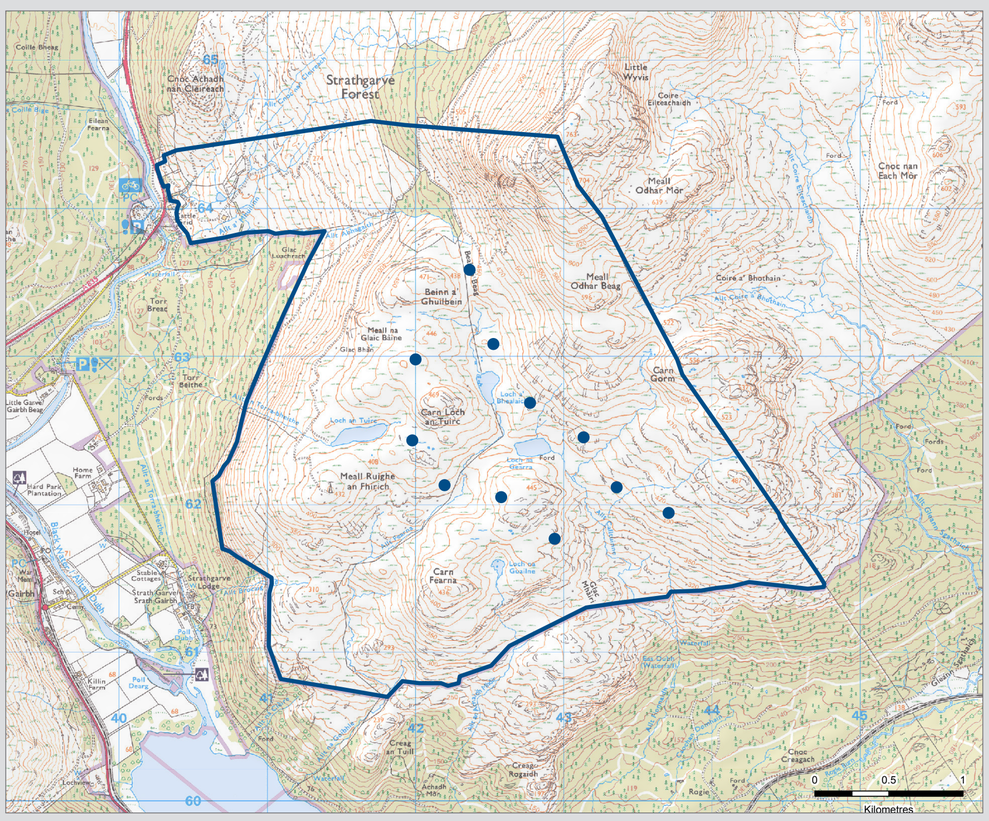
We have been working to balance energy generation and site impact throughout the design process.

Scoping Layout 2023: 14 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



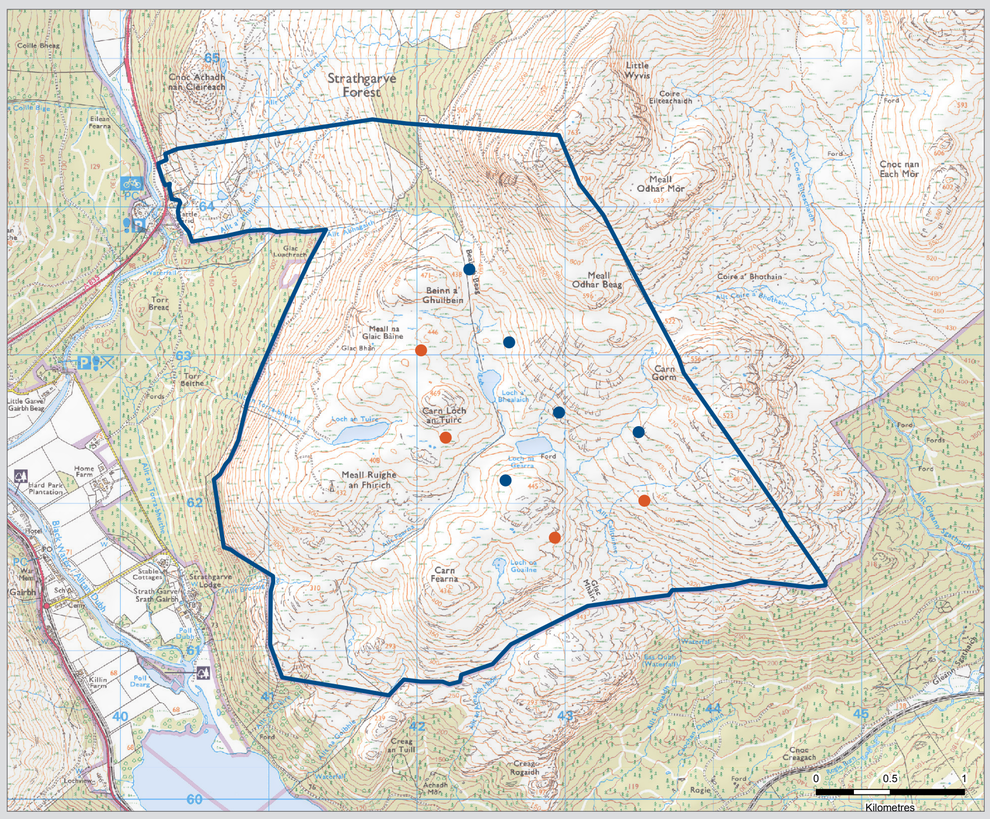
Designed around initial technical and environmental constraints, to avoid interference with existing communications mast, and to maximise the energy generation capacity of the site.

Exhibition 2023 Layout: 11 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



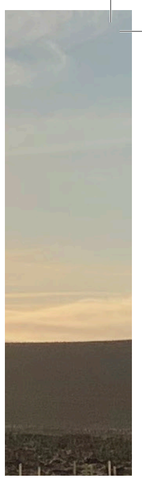
The appearance of the wind farm from key locations was considered at this stage, with turbines being removed or moved based on initial feedback. Visibility from Garve, the A835, Loch Garve, and other areas to the west was reduced through the removal of turbines from the western edge of the site, while its appearance from the south was improved by relocation of the southern and south-eastern turbines. These revisions were also beneficial in reducing visual impact on views from Ben Wyvis.

Current Layout: 9 turbines, mixture of up to 180m and up to 200m to tip height



Feedback from the local community and The Highland Council was incorporated via a design-led meeting with technical specialists. Key changes were the reduction in height of turbines that are seen from the west, pulling turbines further back from the western edge of the site, and relocation of turbines in the south-east of the site. The reduction in turbine numbers also reduced clustering and overlapping views. The site layout has been optimised to avoid areas of deep peat and other sensitive areas.

LEGEND	
Site boundary	Proposed turbines up to 180m tip height
	Proposed turbines up to 200m tip height



Environmental Impact Assessment

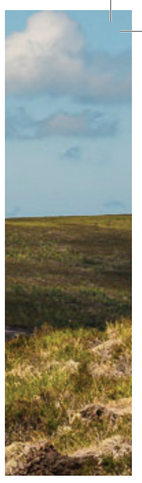
The process of gathering robust environmental baseline data on a site is vital to designing a wind farm.

Surveys and assessments are being undertaken by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an EIA Report, which will be publicly available following submission of an application.

It will include assessment of potential impacts on a range of topics including:

- → Landscape and Visual Amenity
- → Ecology and Ornithology
- → Cultural Heritage
- → Forestry
- → Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Soils
- → Noise
- → Traffic and Transport
- → Climate Change
- → Land Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism

View from Meall Odhar Beag towards the existing telecoms mast at Meall Ruighe an Fhirich



Ecology and Ornithology

Extensive ecological and ornithological surveys have been undertaken for habitats and protected species.

The site supports a mosaic of typical upland habitats including blanket bog, in addition to an extensive network of lochs and watercourses. The habitats are in variable condition across the site with some bog areas subject to peat hagging.

The wind farm has been designed to avoid siting turbines and infrastructure on deeper peat which supports sensitive habitats. Localised habitat features of interest, such as priority peatland, have been avoided where possible.

Overall, the site provides typical habitat for most species however surveys have been undertaken for wildcat, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, otter, bats, water vole and fish. Evidence of badger, pine marten, water vole and mountain hare were recorded on site.

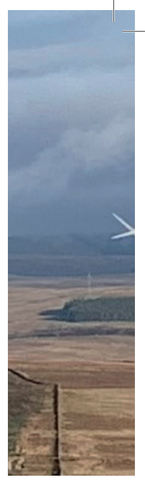
Ornithological surveys have been undertaken over two years, in line with NatureScot Guidance. This included monthly flight activity surveys as well as surveys for breeding upland birds, breeding raptors (including golden eagle), breeding divers and black grouse.

The design of the wind farm has included appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys to minimise the potential effects on birds. Full details of the surveys undertaken will be presented in the EIA Report.

Our submission to the Scottish Government will include a Nature Enhancement Management Plan. This document will lay out the measures we will take throughout the life of the wind farm to improve biodiversity, habitats and the natural environment in and around the project site.

Pine Marten

Carn Fearna from Meall Ruighe an Fhirich



Transport and Access

Access to the site for the construction traffic is under review and measures required to allow access using existing routes are being identified.

Access to the site is proposed from the A835, at Black Water Falls northeast of Garve. Initial access assessment and swept path analysis has indicated that the Port of Invergordon is the most appropriate landing site for the major components.

Due to the road alignment, the wind turbine components will be transported from the port to a turning area off the A835 at Inchbae Lodge approximately 6.3km north of the site. Here components will turn before heading back south to the site access.

The route from the port to site can be summarised as follows:

- → B817 eastbound
- → Academy Road to A9
- → A9 southbound to Tore Roundabout and the A835
- → A835 to Inchbae Lodge, to turn abnormal load vehicles
- → A835 to site access

A full traffic and transport assessment of the impact of vehicle movements during construction will be carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The focus of the assessment will be on the construction phase as this is likely to create the greatest environmental impacts due to the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) required to transport construction materials to site.

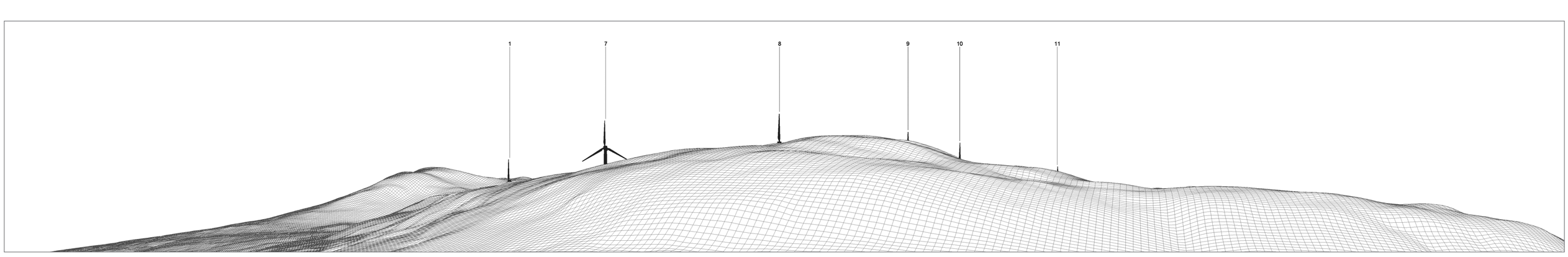
Indicative Turning Area
Inchbae Lodge

Landscape and Visual

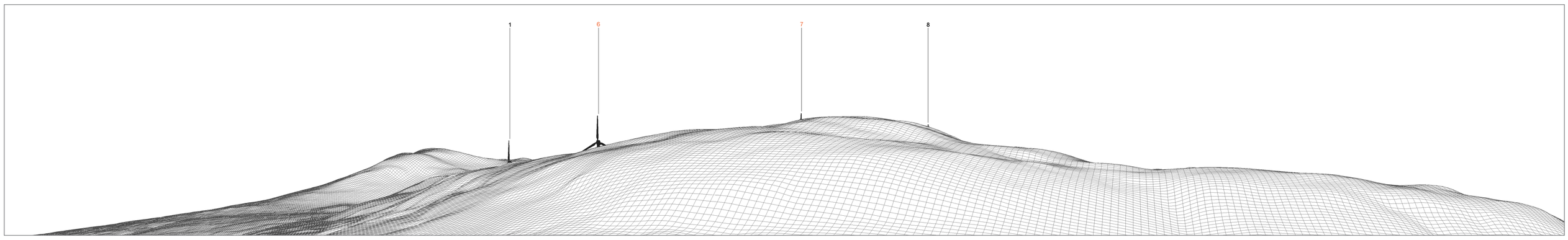
The Carn Fearna Wind Farm site is located on an elevated plateau of rounded rocky hills landscape to the east of Garve and north-west of the settlement of Strathpeffer.

The site can potentially be viewed from areas nearby including the settlements of Garve, Contin and Dingwall, the A835 and A832 roads and walking routes on hills and mountains including Ben Wyvis, Knockfarrel and Kinellan.

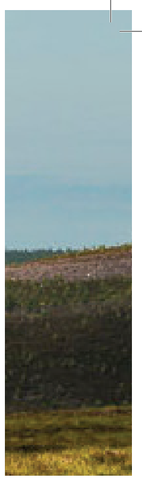
To predict what visual impact the wind farm will have, we agreed 33 viewpoints with the Highland Council, NatureScot and other consultees. Using photography from these locations, we can create wirelines and images showing how the wind farm will look.



Wireline drawing showing **2023 Exhibition Layout** (200m tip turbines)
Nearest turbine: 2.66 km



Wireline drawing showing **Current Layout** (200m tip turbines identified with black numbers, 180m tip turbines identified with orange numbers)
Nearest turbine: 2.89 km



Landscape and Visual

The Wind Farm Layout

The appearance of the wind farm and how it will affect views and other aspects of the landscape has been given a high priority in the design process for the wind farm.

The location of wind farm within the plateau ‘shelf’ described above is of key importance to the way that it is accommodated in the landscape and seen in views from the surrounding area. Most importantly, the turbines must be located within the ‘shelf’ of the plateau and should not appear to either encroach down the western slope into Strath Garve, or to rise up eastwards towards Carn Gorm and into the Ben Wyvis massif.

The changes in layout between November 2023 and now have resulted in a considerable improvement to the appearance of the Proposed Development, including the following:

→ **pulling turbines back from the western edge of the site,** thus reducing the level of visibility from the west, including views from Garve, Loch Garve, Gorstan, the A835, and the A832;

→ **reducing the height of turbines on the western edge of the site,** to reduce the level of visibility from the west;

→ **rationalising the location of turbines on the south-eastern edge of the site** so that they do not appear to rise up into the massif; and

→ **reducing the appearance of overlapping and clustering of turbines,** so that the wind farm has a balanced and cohesive appearance.

A comparison between the appearance of the November 2023 layout and the current layout can be seen in our wirelines.

Statkraft

Project Timeline

Statkraft will continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of the Development.

1. SITE SELECTION & SUITABILITY

(12 to 48 months)

Extensive research to identify site suitability: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.

No public engagement is carried out during this time because the site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.

2. PRE-PLANNING

(6 to 18 months)

We request the view of the Scottish Government and the Highland Council on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”).

Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.

There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities, residents and consultees is received. Two rounds of public engagement events will take place to discuss the design and its changes with the local community.

3. SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION

(12 to 24 months)

An application for Section 36 consent is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report showing the results of all studies undertaken. A hard copy will be available in a public location for the community to access.

Interested parties and consultees such as the Highland Council, and Community Councils hosting and neighbouring the proposal can formally comment on the application and the EIA Report.

4. CONSTRUCTION

(12 to 24 months)

If approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.

We anticipate the construction phase to take 12–24 months. Planning conditions,including the provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, are used to manage elements of construction.

5. OPERATION

(Up to 50 years)

The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.

We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. A community fund is active throughout the operational lifetime of the project for a range of community initiatives.

6. DECOMMISSION

(12 months)

At the end of the planning period, turbines are removed. A financial bond or guarantee is put in place before construction starts, to cover the decommissioning cost.

Local Investment

We strive to be a good neighbour and seek to add value and maximise benefits to communities. We welcome your ideas on how we can deliver for the community.

Local Suppliers

We have a track record of increasing awareness of opportunities during the construction phase of our projects. Scan the QR Code to register your interest in getting involved with the project.

Supporting STEM Careers

Our UHI scholarships support students on their career journey, helping them shape rewarding future careers.

Community Benefit Fund

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed per year in line with Scottish Government recommendations.

We want to hear your views

Do you have thoughts and ideas about how our project could bring positive benefits to the local area? Please share these by speaking to a member of the Team, write to us at Freepost Statkraft, or get in touch through the project website.

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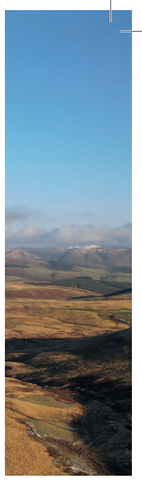
Highland RENEWABLES Inspiring a Sustainable Future

UHI University of the Highlands and Islands Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean



Thank you for visiting

Your comments and feedback are important to us.

We are working to complete our surveys and Environmental Impact Assessment Report ahead of our anticipated submission to the Scottish Government later this year.

When the proposal is submitted interested parties and statutory consultees will have the opportunity to formally comment on the application. All of the information will be available to view on the consenting authority's and our project website at the time of submission.

Sign up to our mailing list to be kept informed of project news.

Please return the freepost reply card provided.

Visit the project website:
www.carn-fearna.co.uk

UKProjects@statkraft.com

Phone the project hotline:
0800 772 0668